The Southern PATRIOT

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To The Last Drop?

—Courtesy, Carolina Times

"White" and "Colored" dippers . . . same water bucket . . . Durham, N. C., construction project.

BIAS BOWS IN D.C.

'Lost' Law Upheld; How About Others?

The U.S. Supreme Court has deferred decision on the legality of segregation in public schools until after a rehearing set for December 7. It posed five lengthy questions it wanted attorneys to argue. The questions chiefly dealt with historical interpretation of the 14th Amendment and with possible procedures the court could follow in abolishing segregation.

A hopeful portent to what the eventual decision might be lies in the court's 8-0 vote that the District of Columbia's "lost" civil-rights statute was still valid.

This statute, passed in 1873, makes it a criminal act for proprietors of public eating places to refuse to serve any person solely because of race or color. Because the law had never been enforced, lower courts had dismissed the suits brought against a Washington restaurant by three Negroes.

"The failure . . . to enforce a law does not result in its modification or repeal," Justice Douglas declared for the court.

The victory capped a three-year fight by a citizens committee. Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, long-time foe of segregation who, although nearly 90, vigorously aided the group, vowed that "We will not permit these laws to become 'lost' again."

An interesting aspect of the case is that it sprang directly from research done in 1948 by the National Committee on Segregation in the Nation's Capital.

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'Coke' Quibbles; World Burns

Remember the picture of the Coca-Cola vending machine that appeared in January's Patriot—the one with "White" and "Colored" water spigots on its sides?

The NAACP journal Crisis was as shocked by the insulting device as we were, and published the picture in its June-July issue. The picture also appeared in the Negro press over the nation.

Then, on July 23, Ernie Hill, foreign correspondent for the Chicago Daily News, enclosed in his column from India a clipping from a New Delhi newspaper in which the picture had appeared under the caption "American Way of Life."

Hill surmised that "an artist has painted spigots for 'white' and 'colored'." He apparently could not believe that such machines actually exist.

But Coca-Cola representatives knew the sad truth. And, concerned about adverse effects on its growing international market, its public relations men felt called upon to make some explanation.

In letters to the SCEF and NAACP and in releases to the press, Coca-Cola's lack of control over its jobbers and bottlers was stressed. The bulk of the latter were declared to be separately owned and operated business entities.

(However, James A. Farley, national Coca-Cola executive, was quoted in the press last month as having **ordered** the abandonment of the Jim Crow dispensers.)

Coca-Cola representatives declared that less than one per cent of the 840,000 vending machines had water spigots—and that less than one per cent of those bore racial designations.

One PR man was quoted in the press as saying that none of the publications running the picture of the Jim Crow machine gave the true story. He took occasion to "regret . . . .the fact that the slanted misrepresentations of organs publishing the picture have aided the foes of democracy abroad, the most unfortunate circumstances being that this misrepresentation has been sparked mostly by the organs of organizations which apparently function in the interest of the American way of life."

There was no misrepresentation of the facts of the case in the **Patriot.** Indeed, after running the story first in January, we printed a second story in February to correct a misunderstanding a reader had expressed.

It does not befit a company as rich and

THE SPIGOTS SHOCKED EVERYONE

powerful as Coca-Cola to quibble over an admittedly unfortunate occurrence that could so easily be thrust into the forgotten past by positive action on its part.

We asked in January; "Is there or isn't there a color line in the cola line?"

A bold demonstration that racial discrimination did not limit opportunity for Negro employees at Coca-Cola would answer this question to the satisfaction of men of good will from here to New Delhi.

Seemingly, the employment of Negro public relations men and the solicitation of testimonials from Negro celebrities is the most that has been done to give this group a share in responsibility and leadership.

We do not think this is enough. A firm that now has markets all over the world cannot operate smoothly with the moral code of the Atlanta, Georgia of its infancy.

Church Hospitals Draw Color Line

In SCEF's poll of 2400 Southern hospital administrators, (See Apr. 1952 S.P.) we could find no difference between the racial policies of church related and secular institutions.

In New Orleans three large hospitals, with Protestant, Catholic and Jewish support, with a total of 1,017 beds, reported not one bed available for Negroes. We are informed that one of these three hospitals has a policy of referring its

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U. S. SETS UP FEPC ADVISORY COMMISSION

President Eisenhower last month appointed a commission to "police" the non-discrimination clauses affecting the employment practices of firms holding government contracts.

The panel is headed by Vice President Nixon and its membership of public and governmental representatives will receive complaints and suggest remedies. No enforcement powers seem to be granted.

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Kansas, at the last session of its legislature, became the 12th state in the union to enact FEPC legislation. The statute is of the "educative" variety.

With nearly one-fourth of the nation's population now covered by FEPC laws of one sort or another, it is clear—whatever deficiencies remain—that the **principle** of FEPC has been accepted in the U.S. Implementation of FEPC is now the crucial social goal.

PENNSYLVANIA STUDY FINDS WIDESPREAD BIAS IN HIRING

Discrimination is a national not a regional problem, hence the need for corrective legislation at both the federal and state levels. This fact is underscored in an excellent study of the problem in Pennsylvania, "Report of the Governor's Commission on Industrial Race Relations".

In a survey covering 1,229 firms employing almost 900,000 workers, it was revealed that where unskilled workers were being hired, about 40 percent of the firms were found to discriminate. For semi-skilled workers this percentage rose to 50 percent. Two-thirds of the firms discriminated against minorities in hiring workers for skilled jobs; and approximately nine-tenths raised barriers to the employment of minorities in office, engineering, and sales occupations.

Most of the discrimination was directed against Negroes but there was also evidence of a significant amount of discrimination against Jews and members of other religious groups and nationalities.

Mr. William H. Gray, Jr. is Executive Director of the Commission which prepared the report.

Kansas Court Opens Pool By Citing McLaurin Case

The Kansas Court of Appeals has ordered a public swimming pool in Kansas City opened to all races in a significant decision based on the McLaurin case.

The court last month declined to make a detailed comparison of the white and Negro swimming facilities offered by the city. It said simply that since Negroes were admitted to the grounds of Swope Park they must also be allowed to use the pool there.

As basis for this ruling, the court cited the U.S. Supreme Court's decision that the University of Oklahoma graduate school, having accepted G. W. McLaurin as a student, could not place any restrictions upon him because he was a Negro.

* * *

A theater manager and two police officers in Oxford, Pa., were fined in U.S. District Court for their part in the ouster of three Negro students from a movie house in 1950.

The students, then attending Lincoln University, refused to sit in a Jim Crow section of the theater. After being arrested, they filed suit, claiming their rights under Pennsylvania's Civil Rights Law had been violated.

The court ordered the manager to pay $500 damages and the two policemen $50 each.

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In Louisville, Ky., the exclusion of Negroes from shows at the Iroquois Amphitheatre has been upheld in several court tests, but is being assailed by citizen groups in the press.

The city-owned outdoor arena has been kept "ljly-white" through a leasing arrangement with a private organization. This summer, however, discrimination was dropped during presentation of a musical play about Lincoln. Things went smoothly and now the battle is joined to end the old dispensation for good.

'We Shall Accept Court Ruling'

As we have commented on other occasions, it is seldom that a Southern newspaper squarely faces the problem of racial segregation.

The editorial from the Meridian, Miss., Star of March 27, excerpted below, is a rare and honorable exception:

"We shall accept federal court ruling. We have no other choice. . .

"Hence: If the federal supreme court rules segregation out; we must need proceed accordingly. . .

"We are law-abiding. We respect all law and order.

"We accept with as good grace as possible court decision. . .

"We shall somehow work our problem through.

"We always have . . . no doubt always shall.

"We can—must—find a way or make it!"

LETTERS

To the Editor:

I recently made a speech opposing segregation over a local radio station and from comments addressed to me afterward gathered that mine was a very faint and lonely voice. I am glad to see there are other progressive minded people who feel, as I do, that a greater South and a greater America will result if we can eradicate the tradition laden injustices of our Southland.

I repeat that I believe as a college student and active participant in local politics that I can help you if I am given the chance.

Congratulations again on the courage to found and support such an organization as you have.

TIM JONES
Birmingham, Ala.

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To the Editor:

A friend of mine gave me a copy of "The Untouchables". It was well done. I hope that it will prove as effective as it deserves to . . . Although the road looks mighty long right now, it looked just about as long and dry a path to walk back in 1941 when I first went to The University of Texas. Had someone told me then that segregation would even be partially broken down by this year of 1953, I would have scoffed . . . but it has happened.

I am struck by the fact that you are getting at segregation where it is most vulnerable and where we have the best chance of immediate success.

EDWIN GALE
Beaumont, Texas

* * *

To the Editor:

"...I continue to believe that what you accomplish with such limited funds is truly remarkable. The **Southern Patriot** is one piece of literature that I always read from cover to cover.

ESTHER LUCILE BROWN
New York

Negro Vote Placed At Over A Million

At the annual institute of racial relations at Fisk University this summer Henry Lee Moon, director of public relations for the NAACP, cited the following estimate of the number of registered Negro voters in 12 Southern states for the year 1952:

Alabama	30,000
Arkansas	60,000
Florida	120,900
Georgia	146,200
Louisiana	120,000
Mississippi	23,000
North Carolina	100,000
Oklahoma	65,000
South Carolina	110,000
Tennessee	150,000
Texas	205,000
Virginia	70,000
Total	1,200,100

He commented: "Measured against a potential Negro vote of nearly 6,000,000 in these states, the 1952 total remains small. Measured against Dr. Ralph Bunche's estimate of less than 250,000 in 1940, it is highly encouraging. Compared with the NAACP estimate of 750,000 in 1948, it is a significant increase. The steady enlargement of this vote is an indication that it is here to stay and will become an increasingly important factor in Southern and national politics."

Psychiatrist Lauds School Integration

Dr. Fredric Wertham, noted New York psychiatrist, gave telling testimony in the suit that resulted in integration of the public schools of Delaware. (See the S. P., May, 1952.)

In the March issue of the **Journal of Educational Sociology** he reports a follow-up study—an examination of Delaware children's reaction to integration.

He states:

"The most positive conclusion is that all the Negro children of this study who changed from segregated to integrated schools made distinctly better academic progress than they had shown before." This he attributed to the removal of mental conflicts caused by state-ordained segregation.

"Negro and non-Negro children adjusted on the whole constructively and in a friendly manner to the new situation . . . as one parent put it: 'If they'd leave it to the children themselves it would be all right. It is really only what the older people say that makes it harder for children to get along with other children.'"

Costs At Jim Crow Law School Far Exceed Results In S. C.

The Columbia, S. C. **Lighthouse and Informer** has dug up some telling facts of life at a "separate but equal" educational institution.

The law school at South Carolina State College for Negroes has had 12 graduates since 1946. Of these graduates, two were admitted to the bar under an arrangement that waived exams for state-school students. Since this arrangement was abandoned, only two of the other 10 grads have passed bar exams.

At present the school has seven instructors but only five students.

In 1949 the state spent $200,000 on a new building for the school. To date, it has spent more than $100,000 in salaries. The expense of maintenance and of a law library should also be added to this cost.

Bigotry really comes dear!

* * *

First legal action was taken to lower racial barriers in higher education in Alabama when two Negro women filed suit against the University of Alabama in July.

Misses Autherine J. Lucy and Polly A. Myers had applied for graduate study in journalism and library science. They were accepted until, upon arrival on the campus, it was learned they were Negroes.

* * *

The theological school of the University of the South at Sewanee, Tenn., opens this month with six new faculty members—and a new outlook on humanity.

It took the resignations of the bulk of the faculty and the censure of thoughtful people all over the nation, but the board of trustees finally agreed to give all applications for admission "sincere and thorough consideration without regard to race."

Kentucky Petition Urges Integration

A petition demanding that racial segregation be ended in Kentucky's public schools is being circulated by the Militant Church Movement, an interracial religious group in Louisville.

Addressed to the governor, the general assembly and all boards of education, the document reads in part:

"In the interest of Christianity, democracy and world peace, in order that men may live and work together in genuine equality and brotherhood; knowing that trends in government, industry and social relations are pointing in this direction; we believe that opening to all people without regard to race, creed or color will speed this process."

Dr. M.M.D. Perdue, pastor of Emmanuel Baptist Church, is chairman of the organization.

Pastor Deplores Lily-White Sects

A Brooklyn minister told the American Baptist Convention that he was "smitten with shame" because his all-Negro congregation was "less Christian in appearance than the diamond at Ebbets Field."

"Our pigmentation - determined churches are mocked by the most secular agencies who have dared go beyond us," the Rev. Gardner C. Taylor told the group at its Denver meeting. "Even our American Baptist Yearbook lists the churches of one state according to race."

The executive secretary of the Florida State Baptist Convention told a student gathering at the University of Miami that Florida's 311,000 Baptists would be among the first church groups to set up a private school system should the Supreme Court outlaw segregation.

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In a sermon discussing the possible consequences of a Supreme Court ruling on segregation in the public schools, the Rev. Edwin L. Brock told his Methodist congregation in Marion, La.:

"No one who knows the problem of the South will contend that a decision against segregation or even in behalf of equalization will be easy for the South. But the deeper issue is whether we choose to join America and seek to exemplify its ideals within the South or whether by subterfuge, circumvention, legal delay and blocks we drag out the dying, bygone South and, by stimulating and deceptive injections, infuse new life into those unhappy divisions of America which should be allowed to die."

"The Dilemma of Southern Youth," the keynote speech of the Columbia youth conference which was delivered by Dr. J. W. Marshall, president of Wayland Baptist College, Plainview, Texas, was published in the Spring issue of the JOURNAL OF NEGRO EDUCATION.

Reprints of this speech are available without charge from the SCEF.